Construction of Railway Line between Khurdha Road and Balangir in Orissa

*91. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reconsidered the proposal to construct a railway line between Khurdha Road and Balangir in Phulbani in Orissa; and

(b) if so, whether the matter has been placed before the Planning Commission?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) A survey was carried out for Khurda Road-Balangir (289 Km.) new BG railway line in 1986. The project was then estimated to cost Rs. 209 crores but was found to be unremunerative.

The proposal was sent to the Planning Commission for consideration and approval for development of backward areas during the VIII Five Year Plan. Planning Commission has directed that the project be referred to the Working Group alongwith similar other projects on the basis of justification and *inter-se* priorities for consideration in the VIII Plan.

Industrial Disputes Pending in Maharashtra

*92. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial disputes pending before each Industrial Tribunal/ Labour Court in Maharashtra as on the 30th November, 1989;

(b) the number of the cases out of the above which have been pending for more than two years;

(c) whether any additional Industrial Tribunal/Labour Court has been set up in Maharashtra during the last one year to dispose of the pending cases; if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken for the speedy disposal of long-pending industrial disputes?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) The Govt. of Maharashtra has set up 19 Industrial Tribunals and 35 Labour Courts. The number of cases pending before the State Industrial Tribunals and Labour Courts and those pending for more than two years as on 30th November, 1989 are as follows:—

	No. of cases pending	No. of cases pending for more than two years
(i) Industrial Tribunals	23,665	9,284
(ii) Labour Courts	75,626	36,874

The number of cases pending before each Industrial Tribunal and Labour Courts is not readily available.

The Maharashtra Government have decided to establish 13 additional Industrial Tribunals and 6 Labour Courts during 1989-90 and 1990-91 for speedy disposal of the pending cases. Out of them, 7 Industrial Tribunals and 3 Labour Courts have been sanctioned with effect from 1.10.1989. The State Government has advised the Presiding Officers of the Industrial Tribunals and Labour Courts to give priority to cases pending for a long time and dispose of them expeditiously. The State Government had earlier informed the Government of India that there were 2 vacancies in Industrial Tribunals and 14 vacancies in Labour Courts as on 3.8.1989. They had moved the High Court for posting of Judicial Officers on deputation in the Tribunals and Labour Courts. They were also examining the possibility of direct recruitment to these posts through the State Service Commission.